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SUBJECT: 15 New Southern Taiwan Legislators - An
Introduction

1. (SBU) Thirty-three incumbents and 15 new legislators were elected from Southern Taiwan districts in the December 11 Legislative Yuan (LY) election. Twelve of the 15 new LY members have advanced degrees, including three PhD's and nine Master's degrees. Overall, the new LY members from the South, spread across parties, are more educated and slightly younger (average age 47) than those they replaced. Virtually all are either well-connected to "national"-level political figures or are long-time political operatives at the local level.

2. (SBU) Background on the new Southern Taiwan LY members:

Kaohsiung City

3. (SBU) District One (Northern Kaohsiung) -- Two incumbents were re-elected: Lin Jin-sing (DPP) and Luo Shih-hsiung (KMT). And, four newcomers were elected:

-- Lee Kun-tze (DPP) - Born in 1964, Lee has a Master's Degree in Political Science from National Cheng Chi University. Prior to running for the LY, Lee served as a Kaohsiung City Councilman (he was one of only four DPP city councilors not involved in a major vote buying scandal in December 2002). Lee is the nephew of Chen Chu, Chairwoman of Taiwan's Council of Labor. According to a 2002 article in the Journalist Magazine, Chen Chu and Lee Kun-tze hail from Ilan originally and are seen as been members of the "Ilan gang," a group of DPP officials that have ties to Premier Yu Shyi-kun and are associated with the New Tide faction in the DPP. Lee also once served as an assistant to now-Justice Minister Chen Ding-nan, another member of the "Ilan gang."

-- Chang Hsien-yao (PFP) - Born in 1963, Chang has a Ph.D. in Political Science from the Sorbonne. A close advisor to PFP Chairman Soong Chu-yu, Chang is Director of the PFP's Policy Research Center. Chang is also a Member of the Board of the Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF), and an Assistant Professor in the Graduate Department of Taipei's Chinese Culture University. A resident of Taipei, Chang moved to Kaohsiung just prior to the LY election in order to run as the sole PFP candidate in Kaohsiung's Northern District, an area that is home to the Tsoying Naval Base, Taiwan's Marine Corps and a large population of retired military.

-- Guan Bi-ling (DPP) -- Born in 1956, Guan has a Ph.D. in Political Science from National Taiwan University. Guan was an AIT International Visitor program participant in 1996. Prior to her run for the LY, she served as Director of the Kaohsiung City Cultural Bureau for two years and before that, as Spokesperson and Director of the Kaohsiung City Information Bureau. Before moving to Kaohsiung in 2000 to work for Mayor Frank Hsieh, Guan served as an Associate Professor of Public Administration at National Taipei University. During Chen Shui-bien's 1998 run for Taipei mayor, Guan served as an aide to his campaign. Guan's husband is Hsu Yang-ming, who is the Vice Mayor of nearby Tainan City and previously served as Deputy Secretary General of the DPP when Frank Hsieh was Chairman. Guan is considered a protg of Kaohsiung Mayor Hsieh and is affiliated with the Welfare Nation faction of the DPP, which Hsieh heads.

-- Tseng Tsan-teng (TSU) - Born in 1953, Tseng has a Ph.D. in Education Administration from Northern Colorado State University. Prior to running for the LY, Tseng served as Director of the Graduate School of

Education Administration at National Tainan Teachers College. In his first run for public office, Tseng received strong support from former President Lee Teng-hui, with whom Tseng has long been associated. Tseng is even closer to Huang Kun-hui, who served as

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former President Lee Teng-hui. Tseng served in the Taipei Education Bureau under Huang Kun-hui, who was Director of the Education Bureau in the late 1970's/early 1980's when Lee Teng-hui was Taipei City Mayor. During his LY campaign, Tseng led a small protest in front of AIT Kaohsiung's offices, protesting the failure of the U.S. to support changing the official name of Taiwan.

14. (SBU) District Two (Southern Kaohsiung) -- Three incumbents were reelected: Kuo Wen-cheng (DPP), Chiu-yi (FPF) and Luo Chih-ming (TSU). In addition, two newcomers were elected:

-- Huang Chao-hui (DPP) - Born in 1946, Huang has a Master's degree from Tainan Theological College. He has formerly served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Executive Yuan's Southern Taiwan Service Center (2002), Vice General Secretary of the DPP's Central Office from 1995-1997 and is a former Legislator (1992-1995). Huang was an early "tang-wai" and DPP activist. He served in the late 1980's as a member of Taiwan's National Assembly and during that period spent two year's in prison for participating in anti-KMT government political protests. Huang's wife, Chen Ling-li, was just elected as a Kaohsiung City Council member in the supplemental election on July 17, but during Huang's LY campaign, he pledged that his wife would not run again for City Council, in order to respond to criticism that his family was trying to dominate local politics.

-- Lee Fu-hsing (KMT) - Born in 1946, Lee has a Master's Degree in Education from Tokyo's Gakugei University. A long-time Kaohsiung City Council member, first elected to the Council in 1990, Lee was one of only two KMT City Council members not implicated in the December 2002 vote buying scandal that led to the removal of many city councilors. Lee ran for LY in 2001, but lost when the KMT split its vote in Kaohsiung's southern district among several candidates. Lee was a participant in AIT's International Visitor program in 1995. A devout Catholic, Lee was made a "Knight of the Catholic Church" by the Vatican in 1993.

Kaohsiung County

15. (SBU) Six incumbents were re-elected: Lin Yi-shih (KMT), Lin Tai-hua (DPP), Chung Shao-ho (FPF), Hsu Chi-ming (DPP), Yu Cheng-dao (DPP), Chao Lian-yen (FPF). In addition, three newcomers were elected:

-- Chen Chi-yu (DPP) - Born in 1964, Chen has a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from National Taiwan University. He is a former Kaohsiung County Councilor (1994-2002). Chen ran against current Kaohsiung County Magistrate Yang Chiu-hsing for the DPP's nomination in 2001, with the backing of then-Magistrate and former Interior Minister Yu Chen-hsien, but failed. Chen maintains close ties to the "Black faction" in Kaohsiung County, a DPP faction that is dominated by the Yu family. Chen was among the first student members of the DPP, joining in 1987 while attending National Taiwan University in Taipei. Chen has been an active DPP campaigner, starting with work as an aide to current Tainan Magistrate Su in Su's 1992 run for the LY.

-- Yen Wen-chang (DPP) - Born in 1946, Yen is a high school graduate. Yen is a long-time Kaohsiung County Councilor and seasoned local DPP campaigner. He has also been a long-time proponent of the "Taiwan identity" movement, de-emphasizing Taiwan links to China in favor of promoting a separate Taiwan culture and language.

-- Wu Kuang-shun (DPP) - Born in 1949, Wu has an MBA from private I-Shou University in Kaohsiung County. Wu previously served as a legislator from 1998-2001, but left the LY to run, unsuccessfully, as the KMT candidate for Kaohsiung County Magistrate in 2002. Wu's family has long been involved in local politics; his father served as Kaohsiung County Council Speaker

for three consecutive terms, from 1982-1994. Wu's family owns a securities firm in Kaohsiung County.

Pingtung County -----

16. (SBU) Three incumbents were re-elected: Liao Wan-ju (KMT), Tsai Hao (IND), Cheng Chao-ming (DPP). In addition, two newcomers were elected:

-- Pan Meng-an (DPP) - Born in 1963, Peng has an MBA from Honolulu University (a long-distance degree program). Prior to his run for LY, Pan served as Chairman of the DPP's Pingtung Office (2001-4) and concurrently as a member of Pingtung's County Council.

-- Wu Chin-lin (KMT) - Born in 1947, Wu has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from National Chengchi University. Wu currently serves as an Advisor to the Examination Yuan and is a former Secretary General of the Examination Yuan. Wu is the younger brother of Wu Tze-yuan (KMT), a former Pingtung County Magistrate and LY member who was convicted of corruption and sentenced to a long prison term, but who fled and is currently one of Taiwan's most-wanted fugitives. Wu's election with the highest number of votes in the County suggests his family retains significant political pull, despite his brother's difficulties.

Tainan City -----

17. (SBU) Five incumbents were re-elected: Tang Pi-o (DPP), Wang Yi-ting (KMT), Lai Ching-te (DPP), Lin Nan-sheng (KMT), and Wang Hsing-nan (DPP). In addition, one newcomer was elected:

-- Kao Szu-po (PFP) - Born in 1968, Wang has an LL.M. from George Washington University Law School and is a member of the Taiwan Bar. Prior to his run for office, he served as an Assistant Professor at the private Shih Hsin University in Tainan. Despite running as a PFP candidate, Kao comes from a long-standing KMT family. His father is Kao Yu-jen (incumbent KMT at-large legislator and former Speaker of the Taiwan Provincial Assembly). His wife, Jessica Chou, is a top aide to Taipei Mayor Ma Ying-jeou, and his brother-in-law is Taoyuan County Magistrate Chu Li-lung (KMT).

Tainan County -----

18. (SBU) Eight incumbents were re-elected: Ho Shui-sheng (DPP), Cheng Kuo-chung (DPP), Lee Chuan-chiao (KMT), Li Chun-yi (DPP), Hung Yu-chin (KMT), Yeh I-chin (DPP), and Lee Ho-shun (an incumbent at-large KMT legislator who ran this time as an NPSU candidate). In addition, one newcomer was elected:

-- Huang Wei-che (DPP) - Born in 1963, Huang has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Yale University. Huang is a former National Assembly member (1996-2000), who chose to go to the U.S. for study after the NA was dissolved rather than run for an LY seat. In 2002, Huang returned and ran successfully for the Tainan County Council, serving from 2002-04.

Chiayi County -----

19. (SBU) Two incumbents were re-elected: Tsai Chi-fang (DPP), Chang Hua-kuan (DPP). In addition, two newcomers were elected:

-- Lin Kuo-chin (DPP) - Born in 1965, Lin is a high school graduate who has served on the Chiayi County Council since 1998. While originally affiliated with Chiayi County's "Lin faction," led by Chiayi County's DPP Magistrate, Chen Ming-wen, Lin's affiliation with the faction is apparently not strong. Lin was a one-time aide to Kaohsiung City LY member Kuo Wen-cheng when Kuo served as Kaohsiung City Councilman. Local officials describe Lin, a former salesman, as an eloquent speaker.

-- Weng Chung-chun (KMT) - Born in 1955, Weng has an MBA from National Taiwan University. Until his run for LY, Weng served as KMT Chairman in Chiayi County (2001-2004). Weng previously served as a legislator from 1989-2001, but chose not to run for re-election and instead ran unsuccessfully for County Magistrate. Weng was one of a number of officials indicted in the massive corruption scandal related to the Zanadau Commercial Development project in Kaohsiung County. In February 2003, Weng was charged with corruption and faces a possible nine-year sentence for allegedly

receiving NT\$25 million in bribes from Su Hui-chen, the majority shareholder in the company, to help get the project license approved after the company had already been ruled ineligible. The case, however, continues to wind its way very slowly through Taiwan's courts and appellate process.

Chiayi City

110. (SBU) Two incumbents re-elected: Huang Min-huei (KMT) and Tsai Tong-rong (DPP). No newcomers.

Taitung County

111. (SBU) One incumbent, Huang Chien-ting (KMT) was re-elected.

Penghu County

112. (SBU) One incumbent, Lin Pin-kun (IND), was re-elected.

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